

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

U.S. House vote commended by CAC

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The U.S. House of Representatives easily approved on April 27 a bill that would make it a federal crime to transport minors across state lines for abortions without parental notice. The House voted 270-157 for the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (H.R. 748), which would outlaw the transportation of a minor by a non-parent or non-guardian to another state for an abortion when the girl's home state requires parental notification or consent.

"The Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act," said CAC consultant Lee Yancey. "In Mississippi, virtually every possible restriction has been placed on abortion, including a mandatory 24-hour waiting period after counseling, a requirement that minors obtain the consent of both parents to having an abortion, and 35 pages of regulations dealing with such physical characteristics as the width of the clinic's hallways and the size of its parking lot."

"In 1996, there were six abortion clinics in Mississippi. Now there is only one."

More than one-fourth of House Democrats joined most of the Republicans to pass H.R. 748. Among Democrats, 54 voted for the bill, while 145 opposed it. Only 11 GOP members voted against the measure, while 216 Republicans favored it. The House's lone independent voted against it.

According to the Congressional Roll Call section in the May 2 issue of The Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson, Mississippi's Third District Representative Chip Pickering (R) and Fourth District Representative Gene Taylor (D) voted in favor of the bill, while Second District Representative Bennie Thompson (D) voted against the bill and First District Representative Roger Wicker (R) was listed as not voting.

The legislation is expected to face a more difficult test in the Senate, although pro-lifers made gains in the November election. The House has approved similar legislation three previous times — 1998, 1999, and 2002 — without the Senate ever voting on it. This year's House action was a 10-vote gain from 2002.

The Senate Republican leadership has made a similar measure, the Child Custody Protection Act (S. 431) one of its top 10 priorities, but Democrats are working to block it. The bill, sponsored by Sen. John Ensign (R.-Nev.) has 37 cosponsors, including one Democrat, Senator Bert Nelson of Nebraska.

"As the Child Custody Protection Act goes to the Senate, we can be thankful for Mississippi Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott who vote consistently for the

sanctity of human life. We commend all legislators, in Mississippi and in Washington D.C., who stand up for the rights of the unborn," Yancey said.

President Bush has said he will sign the legislation. On the day of the House vote, the White House released a statement endorsing H.R. 748, saying it is "consistent with the administration's view that parents' efforts to be involved in their children's lives should be protected."

another state on a minor daughter without parental consent," Carroll said.

The country is becoming more pro-life, following the lead of states like Mississippi where the Legislature passed six new pro-life bills in 2004, Yancey said. Those bills are:

- HB (House bill) 352 — includes the unborn in acts of wrongful death.
- HB1038 — restricts abortion clinics to the first trimester.

Young musicians gather at MC



Terry Traylor (at keyboard), minister of music at First Church, Dothan, Ala., and youth music specialist, emphasizes a point during rehearsal at the 2005 Mississippi Baptist State Young Musicians Choral Festival on April 16 at A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton. Almost 600 young people attended the annual event, sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and funded by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information, contact the Church Music Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3267 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651 ext. 267. E-mail: palford@mbcb.org. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Some studies have shown a majority of minors who become pregnant are impregnated by men 18 or older. The men, or their family members, sometimes take the minors across state lines to obtain abortions. Supporters of the proposals to ban such activities argue these men have an incentive to keep the pregnancy hidden by means of secret abortions, since they are vulnerable to statutory rape charges.

In a March hearing before a House subcommittee, a Lancaster, Pa., mother said her daughter, who was pregnant at 14 years of age, had decided to give birth to her baby when her boyfriend's parents intervened. They secretly took the teenager to a New Jersey abortion clinic and told her she could not go home until she had an abortion, Marcia Carroll testified. The trip to another state avoided Pennsylvania's parental notification law.

"No one should be able to circumvent state laws by performing an abortion in

• HB1612 — Infant Born Alive Protection Act. If a baby survives an abortion procedure, it is to be provided the same care as any other birth. "No longer can they be discarded or left on a table to die without adequate care," Yancey said.

• HB1525 — Abortion Complication Reporting Act requires accurate data on women injured by abortionists.

• SB2619 — Abortion Right of Conscience Act exempts medical personnel and institutions from participating in abortion procedures if the procedure violates one's religious beliefs or conscience.

• SB2869 — a fetal homicide bill making it a double crime if the mother and her unborn child are both killed.

For more information on legislative matters, contact Yancey at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3331 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651 ext. 331. E-mail: lyancey@mbcb.org. Web site: www.christianaction.com.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Directions

4

Just For the Record

5

Sunday School Lessons

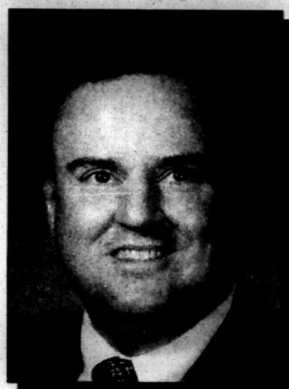
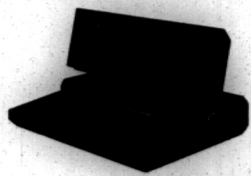
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Classifieds

8

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MAY 18 2005

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BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
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Send news, communication, and
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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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VOLUME 129 • NUMBER 18
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

When everything is not enough

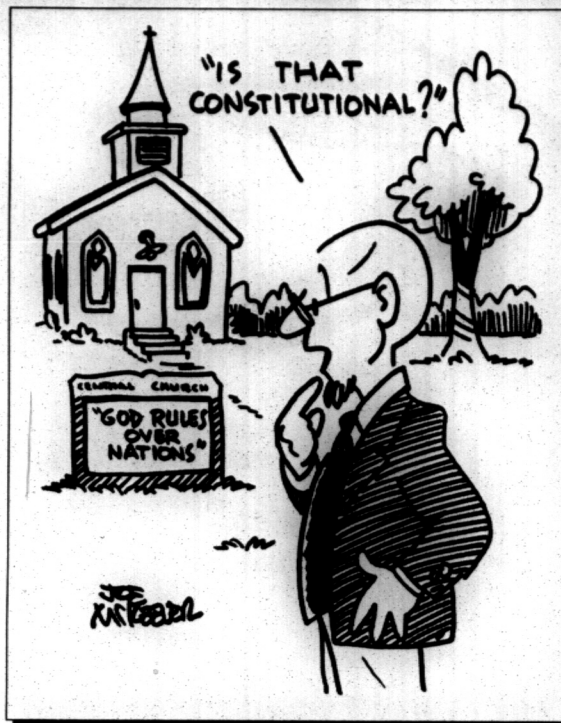
Parents even in this modern age have some rights left when it comes to regulating their children's conduct, if they (we) would only exercise a little backbone. Over the years assertive parents have made their opposition known in areas such as skimpy cheerleader uniforms, sexually-suggestive dance team routines, and a host of non-school related issues such as the availability of pornography at neighborhood convenience stores and alcohol purchases by minors.

There has been one area, however, over which parents in many states continue to have absolutely no control. Anyone, even a total stranger, can drive our young daughters of any age across state lines for an abortion without our knowledge or consent. The consequences have left deep scars in many cases.

Marcia Carroll told a U.S. House of Representatives committee on March 3 that her 14-year-old daughter underwent such a coerced abortion, thanks to the loose patchwork of state parental notification laws around the country.

"On Feb. 16th, I sent my daughter to her bus stop with \$2.00 of lunch money. I thought she was safe at school. She and her boyfriend even had a prenatal class scheduled after school.

"However, what really happened was that her boyfriend and his family met with her down the road from her bus stop and called a taxi. The adults put the children in the taxi to take them to the train station. His stepfather met the children at the train station, where he had to purchase my daughter's ticket since she was only fourteen. They put the children on the train from Lancaster to Philadelphia. From there, they took two subways to New Jersey. That is where his family met the children and took them to the abortion clinic, where one of the adults had made the appointment.



"When my daughter started to cry and have second thoughts, they told her they would leave her in New Jersey. They planned, paid for, coerced, harassed, and threatened her into having the abortion. They left her alone during the abortion and went to eat lunch. After the abortion, his stepfather and grandmother drove my daughter home from New Jersey and dropped her off down the road from our house," Carroll testified.

"I was so devastated that this could have been done that I called the local police department to see what could be done. They were just as shocked and surprised as I was that there was nothing that could be done in this horrible situation.

"As a consequence of my daughter being taken out of our state for an abortion without parental knowledge, she is suffering intense grief. My daughter cries herself to sleep at night and lives with this everyday.

"I think about what I could or should have done to keep her safe. Everybody

tells me I did everything I could have and should have done. It doesn't make me feel any better, knowing everything I did was not enough to protect my daughter," she said.

Help is on the way, however. The U.S. House of Representatives has voted 270-157 for the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (H.R. 748), which would outlaw the transportation of a minor by a non-parent or non-guardian to another state for an abortion when the girl's home state requires parental notification or consent. The bill now goes to the U.S. Senate, where opposition is expected to be rougher than in the House.

The powerful special interest groups in favor of the practice of infanticide anywhere, anytime, at any age, are gearing up to kill the bill. Terming the legislation the "teen endangerment bill," National Organization for Women President Kim Gandy said, "This is an ill-advised and dangerous bill designed to prevent young women from seeking a legal medical procedure in an accessible and affordable location, particularly if her own state designed insurmountable barriers to her reproductive health care," Gandy said.

Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion chain in the country, referred to the legislation as the "Dangerous Family Restriction Act," and noted, "This bill portrays a frightening lack of compassion for teens whose lives are not picture-perfect."

Incredibly, this double-talk is offered to rebut an honest attempt to safeguard children's emotional and physical health, as well as their relationships with their parents. The baby killers have truly fallen on hard times, if that is their best defense against parental notification.

As the abortionists prattle on with their intellectual nonsense, perhaps the nation is slowly — excruciatingly slowly — beginning to turn away from the horrors of abortion in all its forms. If the fervent prayers of all Christians can hasten the process (and we can), let's get busy.

More than two legions of "double duty" Southern Baptist pastors proclaim on the Lord's Day and manage ministry in the workplace during the week. Many people today, preparing intentionally to serve as bivocational pastors, feel a definite call to this unique ministry.

Perhaps most of us who work two full-time vocations have chosen bivocational ministry as a response to circumstances as they are. We are simply doing whatever it takes to work out the ministry to which God has called us. This special marketplace ministry — which is not as readily available to fully-supported ministers — is unique, effective, and convenient for bivocational ministers. We are fulfilling our Lord's intention to "be in the world, but not part of the world."

Bivocational ministers and the churches they serve are one of Southern Baptists' most effective areas of ministry. Though often neglected, they are vitally important to denominational life. A study of bivocational pastors and churches in the Southern Baptist Convention notes that the churches served by bivocational ministers have a higher ratio of baptisms, other additions, Sunday School enrollment and attendance, and Discipleship Training enrollment.

TWICE BLESSED:



Bivo ministries crucial to future

By Dale Holloway
Bivocational Specialist
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Bivocational ministry is older than the carpenter's bench in Nazareth. The mysterious Melchisedec had two good jobs: he was king of Salem and priest of the Most High God. Amos spent more time gathering Sycamore fruit than he did performing prophecy, but we can conclude that his ministry was fulfilling and effective.

In the New Testament, our Lord's guardian Joseph was a carpenter. Martha was a housekeeper. Zaccheus and Matthew were tax collectors. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were supreme court counselors. Barnabas was a landowner. Cornelius was an army officer. Luke was a doctor. Pricilla and Aquila were tentmakers. Lydia was a purple die seller. Erastus was a city treasurer. The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker.

In more recent history, we notice all Anabaptists were bivocational. The most notable one, John Bunyan, wrote *Pilgrim's Progress* and 10 other books with only the Bible as his resource. During the 12 years he spent in Bedford Jail, he supported his family by making lace.

William Carey — short of stature but long on mission accomplishments — provided his own support while serving as superintendent of an Indigo factory in Calcutta, India. John Bledsoe Taylor was a legislator in four states, served as a military leader in four wars, founded Baylor University, and held court as a district judge by day while preaching at night.

Some ask the foolish question, "What do bivocational ministers do for a living?" They do every honorable job, usually working

40 hours each week in a vocation that provides most of their financial support while serving 20 or more hours a week as a minister. These dual-role ministers serve throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, with the greatest density in the Southern states.

Their concentrations range from only one or two bivocational ministers in some associations, to an association in Kentucky where every pastor as well as the director of missions are bivocational. Approximately 750 bivocational pastors currently serve churches affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention — about 36% of all the churches in the convention.

I identify with Paul's testimony to Timothy, his "son in the ministry," in 1 Timothy 1:12: "How thankful I am to Christ Jesus our Lord for choosing me as one of his messengers, and giving me strength to be faithful to him."

God has called a few of us to be successful. God has called all of us to be faithful.

Holloway, a retired Mississippi educator and active bivocational pastor, can be reached at 1758 Florence-Byram Road, Florence, MS 39073. Telephone: (601) 845-2107 or (601) 845-6496. E-mail: bivoldr@aol.com.

Baptist Marine chaplain soldiers on in Iraq

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq (BP) — There are many reasons to join the armed forces. Some join for college money. Others join out of a sense of patriotic duty. There are even some who join because they answered a call — not a phone call, but a call from God.

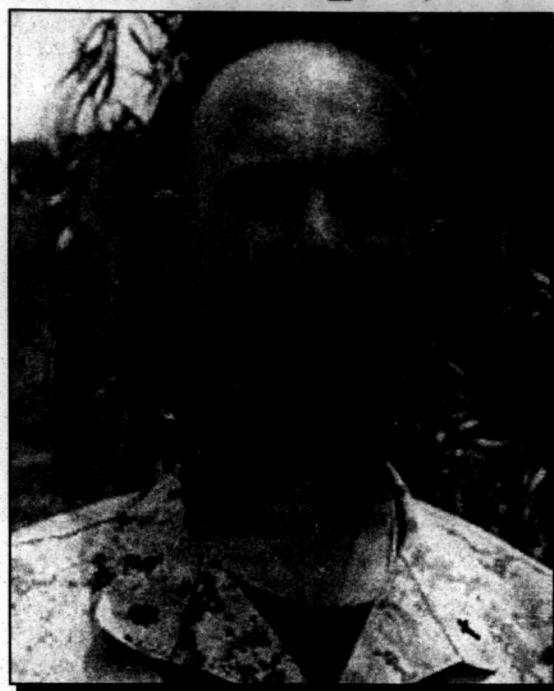
Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Endel Lee, a Navy chaplain and assistant professor of preaching and pastoral ministry in New Orleans Seminary's Leavell College, recalled how God used a combination of those factors to lead him into the military.

"From the time I was nine years old I was working part-time jobs," Lee recounted. "When I turned 14 I couldn't even drive, but there were days where I would be walking around with hundreds of dollars in my pocket from selling farm produce on the side of the road."

Lee joined a local Baptist church in Tanner Williams, Ala., at the age of 15 and surrendered to fulltime Christian service at the age of 17.

"I started going to church and I knew that God was calling me to preach," Lee continued. "I had about \$5,000 in the bank when I finished high school and that would have paid for a secular education. I knew I needed to get smarter about ministry and study religion so I [enrolled at] a Christian college."

"As I started college I realized that an education from a private institution was not cheap and my funds were getting low very fast. I knew I



Lee

couldn't make it with the money I had saved, even with scholarships to help."

Lee was living on \$25 a month. He would use the money to wash his clothes and buy other items needed to get by. "Usually once a month I could go have pizza on a Friday night with my friends," he recalled.

Low on funds and needing to finish his education, Lee took the advice of a friend who urged him to join the reserves so he could get money for college.

"After praying about it persistently, I just walked into the recruiting office and told the recruiter that I wanted to join

the Marine Corps Reserves," Lee said. "He asked me what I wanted to do. I said, 'I don't know. What have you got?' He looked at me like I was crazy. We started talking through it and he told me they had a unit in town that jumps out of airplanes and scuba dives and things like that. I said, 'Yeah, that sounds pretty good; sign me up for that.'"

Lee asked the recruiter what the job was called and was told "reconnaissance." He later learned that jumping and diving were just how you get to work in recon and there is a lot more to the job.

Lee joined the Marine Corps Reserves in January 1982 and was assigned to 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company in Mobile, Ala. He achieved the rank of sergeant and was recognized as the Alabama Enlisted Marine of the Year in 1985.

He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Mobile in 1985 and then attended Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth to earn his master's and doctorate degrees, finishing in 2000.

In 1987, he transferred to 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment in Fort Worth and accepted a direct commission as a Marine Corps Reserve officer. Serving as an officer for six years, he was a platoon commander, naval gunfire liaison officer, and executive officer with 14th Marines. He also served as a platoon commander and a company level commanding officer with 4th Reconnaissance Battalion in San Antonio.

"Having been both a private first class and a commanding officer, I have learned how to think like and communicate with Marines at various levels of responsibility," Lee said. "My experiences and leadership training in the Marine Corps have definitely added more tools to my toolbox which I can now use to help people from a spiritual perspective."

In 1993, Lee received a reserve officer's commission in the U.S. Navy Chaplains Corps via an inter-service transfer.

"I get a lot of double takes," Lee, 23-year veteran, said. "People stop me because they see my pins and realize I was in recon and they see that I'm now a Navy chaplain. It opens a lot of doors for me to talk with people. We begin to talk and I have a chance to tell them how the Lord worked through my life to lead me to this current place of service."

Lee explained his ultimate goal for serving in Iraq is to lead men and women to recognize and engage in a spiritual connectivity with God.

He was four months away from possible retirement in the wake of the World Trade Center attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. He could have retired years ago, but he knew God was calling him to remain available for ser-

Record

vice in Iraq or wherever he was called upon to go by the Navy.

In New York after 9/11, "I would escort families down to ground zero and help them deal with their grief and then I would often pray with them," Lee said. "We [chaplains] would also have duty at the morgues and help families deal with identifying whether one of their loved ones had died."

He was mobilized for active duty in January 2005 and is serving the 8th Communications Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Headquarters Group, II MEF (Forward) and Military Police Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward). Lee also acts as the deputy coordinator for Protestant worship at Camp Fallujah.

When Lee is finished with his service in Iraq, he will return to teaching at New Orleans Seminary. "I hope that people look at my service and see what the Lord has done through me," Lee said.

Poll questioned

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll on the judicial filibuster in the U.S. Senate is drawing criticism from social conservatives, who say the poll used biased questions and other polls have found different results. The ABC News/Washington Post was released April 26 and was touted as showing by a two-to-one margin Americans opposing Republican efforts to change the rules and prevent the filibustering of judicial nominees. The Post even ran a story about the poll with a headline stating, "Filibuster Rule Change Opposed." Specifically, the poll asked, "Would you support or oppose changing Senate rules to make it easier for the Republicans to confirm Bush's judicial nominees?" Only 26% of Americans said they supported a rule change, while 66% said they opposed it. Meanwhile, a Rasmussen Reports poll found just the opposite — 56% of Americans supporting the rule change, 26% opposing it. What gives? Apparently, the polls' wording accounts for the drastic swing. Conservatives note that the ABC News/Washington Post poll failed to include the word "filibuster," which can draw a negative reaction from some people. The Rasmussen poll, released April 22, also didn't mention the word "filibuster," but nevertheless got a different result. It asked two questions on judicial filibusters, the first being, "Should every presidential nominee receive an up or down vote on the floor of the Senate?" Forty-five percent said "yes" and 21% said "no." Secondly, Rasmussen asked, "Should Senate rules be changed to give every nominee a vote?" A majority, 56%, supported a rule change, while 26% opposed it. FOX News reported that an internal Republican poll found even greater support for the rule change if people are asked if they agree with the following statement: "Even if they disagree with a judge, Senate Democrats should at least allow the president's nominations to be voted on." Eighty-one percent agreed with the statement, FOX News reported. Democrats have used the filibuster to block 10 of President Bush's most conservative nominees to the appeals court level — that is, roughly one-fifth of his nominees to the appellate court. While the nominees had the votes for confirmation, they did not have the 60 votes required to overcome the filibuster. It is the first time in Senate history that judicial nominees with majority support have been prevented from receiving an up-or-down vote, Republicans say.

Looking back

10 years ago

Sammy J. Chisolm Jr., pastor of Shady Grove Church, Lucedale, is killed in an automobile accident in Mobile County, Ala.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Charles Pickering of Laurel, meeting with 22 other state presidents, appeals to Mississippi Baptists to pray for the Southern Baptist Convention's problems that "can only be solved by God."

50 years ago

The Southern Baptist Convention launches a multimillion-dollar program to reach 65 million unchurched Americans through radio and television, said Paul M. Stevens, director of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 5, 2005

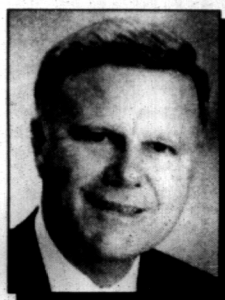
VOL. 129

No. 18

WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN HEAVEN?

A survey was taken across the nation asking folks the question, "Who is the one person that you want to see when you get to heaven?" The answers were somewhat shocking and extremely revealing. For the rest of the day after I saw the survey, as I would run into people I would ask them the question, "Who would you most like to see when you get to heaven?" Most of the people were folks who either work at or were in and out of the Baptist Building that day. Generally, these people who are supposed to be spiritually minded would name someone like a family member, a friend, or one of the apostles like Paul or Peter. Then they would catch themselves and say, "Of course, the person I want to see most of all is Jesus." They were somewhat apologetic that they were not spiritual enough to think of that right off the bat.

Take a look at the results of the survey taken across the nation of the person you would like to see the most when you get to heaven: thirty-one percent said mother. Mother led the poll of who folks wanted to see when they got to heaven. Almost a third said mom. That is an interesting thing for mothers to contemplate, for it reinforces the reality of her influence and impact on the lives of her children. Right here at Mother's Day, it is worthwhile to stop, evaluate, and celebrate the incredible role that mom plays in our growth and development. It is interesting for



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

those of us who have lived through the era of proclaimed women's liberation to watch as women have been released from home tasks in order to go and do things that were not nearly as significant or far-reaching as the simplicity of being at home nurturing and transforming a child's life. What we are unable to evaluate properly at the time is the small cares, caresses, corrections, and confirmations that a mother provides as their children move from little ripples into the tsunami of life itself. Mothers make a difference and that is the reason why so many of those surveyed said, "I want to see mother when I get to heaven."

The survey revealed that 31% wanted to see mom and 16% wanted to see dad. Dad is important and his influence is significant, but he has to get in line behind mom in receiving love and appreciation. Could it be that the children don't understand how much dad has done for them, or could it be that they are just not as thankful for dad or do not feel as loved by dad? I don't know, but with Father's Day just around the corner it might be good for us dads to step up to the plate to be more loving,

caring, encouraging, and helpful so that when we get to heaven somebody will want to see us.

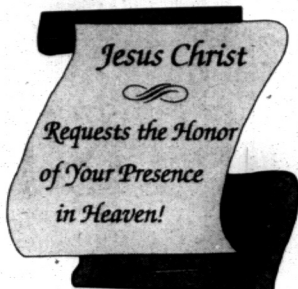
Think about these results. The survey said the person they most want to see when they get to heaven is 31% mom; 16% dad; and spouse, either husband or wife, nine percent. When I was taking my own little personal survey I would hear their response and then I would give them the statistical results from the national survey. When we would get to the spouse at nine percent, most of them would chuckle and look somewhat puzzled. Then I would ask, "Why do you think that is?" Some of my fellow workers said, "Probably most folks don't think that their spouse is even going to be in heaven." That could be, but I think it is probably a reflection of the family. Even families that stay together for decades or for a lifetime are sometimes unhappy in their home relationships, so maybe they don't particularly look forward to living it out for eternity.

As for me, I have thought a lot about who I would want to see first when I get to heaven. Well, I don't want to appear to be super spiritual but I really do want to see Jesus. I do not know how long the line will be in order to get to visit with Him,

talk with Him, and thank Him for His love and amazing grace, but we will have plenty of time and I don't mind waiting. Surely there will be a lot of folks ahead of me. I thought through the list of family, friends, parents, children, wife, grandkids, and fantastic folks that I have heard about or I have had the privilege of working with through the years, but honestly the one person that I look forward the most to seeing in heaven is *me*. I really don't mean to be selfish or self-centered, but I want to tell you folks it is an amazing, glorious thing to think about the fact that in spite of my sinfulness, my disobedience, and my willful wrongdoing that Jesus would say, "Jim, I want you to come to the Father's house for eternity. I will forgive you and I will prepare a place for you. I want you to come and live with me." I know Jesus will be there, but I am going to be amazed, blessed, overwhelmed, energized, and thankful that I am there.

You can be there too. The Scripture says in the opening sentences of John's Gospel, "He came unto his own and his own received him not, but as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11-12). As though it were yesterday, I remember when I trusted Jesus and as fresh as today I live on here trusting Him and looking forward to that day when I will open my eyes and see myself there with Him and I trust with you. It is going to be good!

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YOU CAN RESPOND
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Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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Please send me information on the First Mortgage Church Bonds currently being offered by Great Nation Investment Corp.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Camp Creek Church, Guntown: Revival, May 1-5; Dave Rose, evangelist; Martin Jacks, pastor.

Concord Church, Booneville: Homecoming and Mother's Day program, May 8, 10:30 a.m.; lunch at noon. Robert E. Walker, pastor.

Sebastopol, Sebastopol: Revival, May 8-11; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Danny Lanier, evangelist; David Bankston, pastor.

Ramah Church, McCall Creek: Revival, May 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on grounds, and afternoon services; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, evangelist; Gordon Coker, pastor.

Trinity Church, Philadelphia: Revival, May 9-10, 7 p.m.; Dickie Bryan, evangelist; William Crenshaw, song leader; Wayne Hill, pastor.

Bellevue Church, Pontotoc County: Homecoming and Dedication, May 15, 11 a.m.; followed by lunch and a dedication service; David Blackwell, preaching; Tommy Inmon, pastor.

New Zion, Liberty: Homecoming, May 15; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Butch Kirkland, speaking; The Tero Family, Clinton, La., music.

Rocky Point Church, Leake Association: Revival, May 15-18, 7 p.m. Church-wide lunch on Sunday. Don Cook, Kosciusko, preaching; Eddie Pilgrim, music. Marshall Lum, pastor.

Black Hawk Church, Colia: Homecoming, May 22; services, 10:30 a.m., with the Promised Quartet leading music. Revival, May 23-25, 7:30 p.m.; Eddie Carpenter, preaching; Gary Tanner, pastor.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 5, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

STATE SINGLE ADULT RETREAT

May 28-30 • Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

MEN'S CONFERENCE

- Led by Randy Impson, pastor, Calvary BC, Starkville, & former singles minister

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

- "Discovering God's Will" led by Gwen Williams (Miss Chocolate), New Orleans

OTHER CONFERENCES:

- Picking Up The Pieces • A Servant Heart
- Truth Through Humor

(more conferences will be announced at a later date)

EVENTS

- Seafood Banquet
- Afternoons free with options for a trip to New Orleans to do missions or for other fun trips

STATE SINGLE/SINGLE-AGAIN CONFERENCE

June 17-18 • Temple BC, Hattiesburg

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DIANNE SWAIM

Fresh Spirit Ministries, North Little Rock, Ark.
author of "My Divorce Hurts Worse At Church"

CONFERENCES:

- Divorce • Never Married • Widows • Single Parenting

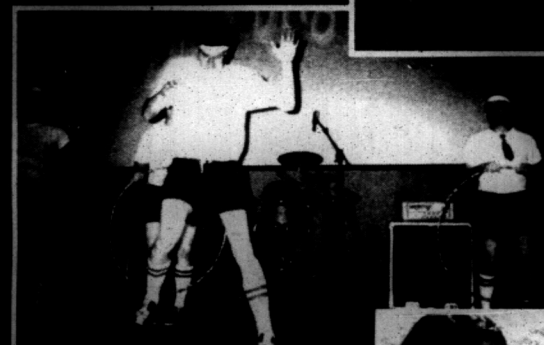
Cost: \$10, includes lunch

(Registration deadline is June 13 for meeting/meal.)

If not preregistered, you may pay \$5 at door but will not include meal. For more information call Phillip at 601-544-1794.

For more info, contact Glenn Shows: Phone, 601-292-3373 or 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail, gshows@mbcb.org.

GULFSHORE YOUTH WEEKS 2005



May 23-June 24

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Miss.

Camp Pastors & Worship Leaders

May 23 - 27

Jeff Holeman

Chris Layton

May 30 - June 3

Jon Daniels

Kevin Williams

June 3 - 7

Roger Reeder

Will Reedy

June 7 - 11

Gary Permenter

Kevin Williams

June 11 - 15

Ricky Young

Will Reedy

June 16 - 20

Grant Stegall

Tom Edwards

June 20 - 24

Robert Mullins

Tom Edwards

Gulfshore Youth Weeks program information: Harvey Ellis
1-800-748-1651, ext. 286, or 601-292-3286

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly reservation information:
Frank Simmons, 228-452-7261

State Senior Adult Rally

First Baptist Church, Jackson

Thursday, August 25

8:30 - 11:45 a.m., Cost \$1 (payable at door)

S P E A K E R :

Phil Waldrop, Alabama

M U S I C :

Brad Becker and Family
Band, Arkabutta

CONFERENCES:

- Grandparenting Factor
- "Fun" Time with Judy Vaughn-Mabry, ventriloquist, Gulfport
- Leadership
- Giant Health Fair

Faithful In All Things



Katie Bell
USM
Canada



Paige Bennett
USM
Australia



Erin Biggers
USM
China



Stephanie Bilbo
Blue Mountain
Nevada



John Blackledge
Jones
Colorado



Brandon Blount
Northeast
S. Dakota



Haley Boone
Jones
Montana



Misty Boyett
Holmes
Pacific Rim



Bruce Brady
Co-Lin
Colorado



Brittany Breazale
Hinds
Michigan



Beth Brumbaugh
Cull Coast
Oregon



Katie Croston
Co-Lin
California



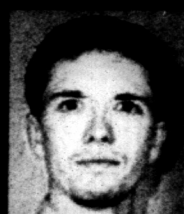
Katie Curry
WCC
Illinois



Alisha Davis
MC
Texas



Meghan Davis
USM
California



Juston Dean
East Central
Oregon



Nick Demari
Northwest
Nevada



Rob Dent
MC
Pacific Rim



Lisa DeSola
UM
Texas



Brandon Doyle
MSU
Thailand



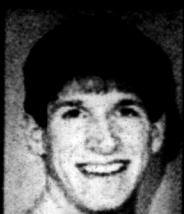
Karen Fife
MC
Thailand



Julie Forrest
Blue Mountain
Nevada



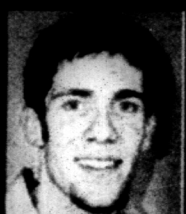
Robert Gooch
Co-Lin
Colorado



Aaron Graham
USM
Pacific Rim



Denise Gray
USM
Michigan



Brian Greer
USM
Pacific Rim



Kathleen Greer
Northwest
Oregon



Catherine Gregg
MC
Florida



Jay Grisham
MSU
Philippines



Brook Hale
Blue Mountain
Canada



Tim Hampton
USM
Ohio



Richard Harbison
WCC
Maryland Delaware



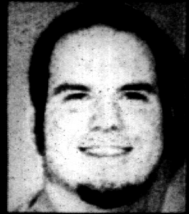
Charlie Harris
Blue Mountain
Tennessee



Lee Howarth
Delta State
Pacific Rim



Lauren Hurley
MSU
South Africa



Lee Hutson
MC
Canada



Clint Jackson
Co-Lin
Arizona



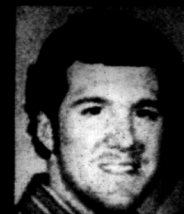
Chris Johnson
MSU
Colorado



Raymond Johnson
USM
Philippines



Lucy Johnston
BMC
Japan



Ethan Jones
MC
Arizona



Ana Keith
MC
Canada



Justin Kelly
Delta State
Illinois



Kelly Kimball
Delta State
Maryland Delaware



Kelly Marzani
USM
Maryland Delaware



Ashley Marzani
Delta State
Arizona



Andrew Mathan
Northwest
Maryland Delaware



Carl McClure
MSU
Australia



Miranda McInnis
MC
Canada



Anne McMaster
Delta State
Maryland Delaware



Betty Melchor
Mississippi Delta
Montana



Phil Metcali
UM
Philippines



Jennifer Mitchell
Pearl River
Texas



Anna Minton
MC
Tennessee



Ashley Mond
USM
Oregon



Tara Pappas
Delta State
Northwest



Kelly Pappas
UM
Nevada



Janet Pierce
WCC
Colorado



Dean Polk
MSU
Australia



Ashley Pounds
WCC
Maryland Delaware



Marsha Price
Blue Mountain
Philippines



Justin Qualls
MC
Pacific Rim



Amy Rawson
MSU
Pacific Rim



Mark Redd
USM
Arizona



Brooke Richardson
Blue Mountain
Oregon



Tara Rouse
USM
New York



Amy Smith
USM
California



Ashley Smith
MSU
South Africa



Ashley Spell
MSU
China



Lori Stallings
Blue Mountain
Nevada



Georgia Stegall
MSU
Nevada



Joel Stinson
MSU
Tennessee



James Strickland
MC
New York



Mallory Sullivan
MC
Central Asia



Chad Tamm
Northwest
Oregon



Jennifer Tamm
USM
Michigan



Ashley Tamm
USM
Oregon



Stacy Tamm
USM
Oregon



Jennifer Tamm
USM
Oregon



Stacy Tamm
USM
Oregon



Jennifer Worsham
Blue Mountain
Oregon



Heather Wright
USM
Texas



Heather Young
MC
Colorado

2005 BSU S



SUMMER MISSIONARIES



Pray this day for...

May 6-19, 2005

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Father, may the whole world experience the power in prayer You have given us through the Holy Spirit to bring the lost out of Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of Your dear Son."

A TIME TO PRAY by Evelyn Christenson

For: (1) Mother's Day; (2) Baptist Children's Village Special Day Offering; (3) Pray with missionaries Robert and Deborah Nichols who are ministering to the youth leader in Melo, Uruguay. Pray for the youth leader as he strives to manage his work schedule and his calling to be the youth leader.

For: (1) FAITH Training, 9th-12th (Life Way/SS); (2) L, a national in Bratislava, Slovakia, was led to begin a small-group Bible study for young adults in his apartment. Pray that God's Word would powerfully work in their lives as they grow and mature in Christ.

For: (1) ALT - Associational Leadership Training, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (CG); (2) I Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, 10th - 13th (D&FM); (3) Monty Hale is a leadership development specialist for the Missouri Baptist Convention. Pray for Monty as he travels the state.

A young couple during marriage counseling in Santo Domingo, DR, have received a presentation of the gospel. The young lady wants to renew her commitment to Christ. The young man (Catholic background) believes he has always been a son of God. Pray that the Holy Spirit opens his eyes to turn his heart over to Christ.

Pray for the workers inside Libya as they balance work, ministry, family, etc. Pray for the believers to be faithful in meeting together. Some work 12 hour days, so it is difficult for them to find the time to encourage one another to grow in faith. Pray that none would slip into a spirit of apathy.

For: (1) Witnessing Through Media, Park Place BC, Pearl (CS); (2) Charles Campbell, director of student and discipleship ministries with the Illinois Baptist State Association, asks prayer for the recruitment of students as campus missionaries in Illinois high schools. Pray for students to come to Christ.

Pray for missionaries James and Jane Latham who lead volunteers in the distribution of the Gospel of John through the ministry called "Operation GO" (Operation Gospel Outreach). May this ministry be used of God to impact lostness and to multiply churches.

Pray for the militant leaders who are so violently opposing Christianity in the state of Karnataka, India. Pray that their eyes will be opened to the truth of Jesus Christ. Pray that their lives will be dramatically transformed and that this will result in many coming to faith in Christ.

For: (1) II Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 16th - 18th (D&FM); (2) "The Passion of the Christ" was shown on national television on Good Friday throughout Indonesia. Pray for those who saw the film to understand that Jesus Christ died on the cross, was resurrected and lives today.

James Vaughn, Reno, Nev., is the Nevada Baptist Convention missions resources director. Pray for the church planting strategy for sponsoring congregations as well as mentors, and for lay involvement in church planting. The population of Nevada is 95% lost.

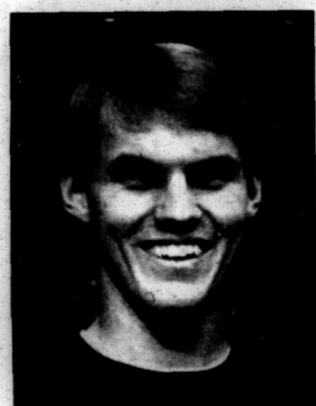
Please pray for a national pastor who is having serious health problems. He has a heart for missions and God has used him and his church to start many churches in several different areas of Peru. Pray that God will restore his health and that he will be able to continue reaching other Peruvians with the gospel.

For: (1) III Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 19th - 21st; (2) The divorce rate in China increased by 21% last year. 1.6 million couples ended their marriages in 2004. Pray that Christians in China will be able to model godly marriages and teach the importance of Christian homes.



MISSISSIPPI
July 11-15, 2005

REGISTER NOW!



David Platt
Speaker



Chris Layton
Worship Leader

**CALL TO
REQUEST A
REGISTRATION
PACKET**

Call us at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 313, or
E-mail us at bbridges@mbcb.org

7/1/91

MISS LAUREN E. TABOR
Parents: Michael and Jeana
Media Consultation: South America

7/3/85

MISS HEATHER M. BROWN
Parents: John and Claudia
CESA: General Evangelism

7/11/87

MISS ANDREA J. HENDRICKS
Parents: Larry and Mary
Middle America and The Caribbean:
General Evangelism

7/13/89

MR. JOSHUA BROWN
Parents: John and Claudia
CESA: General Evangelism

7/25/86

MR. MARK D. YOUNG
Parents: Steven & Laura
Middle America:
Student Evangelism

*Encourage a
MK with a
birthday card!*

PLEASE NOTE

Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

FOR SECURITY,

cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name
MBCB Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bible Drill Team, Bible Barn



2. Recognition of Anne Yates, First Church, Vicksburg

1. **Bible Barn Bible Drill Team, Utica**, participated in church, associational, and state drills. Bible Barn is a non-profit organization celebrating its tenth year in Utica. Shown are the participants.

2. Anne Yates was recognized for fifty years of service to the music ministry of **First Church, Vicksburg**. Shown are Matt Buckles, pastor; Yates; and Jim Hess, minister of music.

3. **First Church, Jackson**, is hosting a Kay Arthur conference Aug. 26-27. August 26 is Precept Leader day, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., open only to those who have led at least one course written by Arthur or plan to in the future. A

leader banquet will be held that evening. A Day with Kay will be held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the sanctuary and is open to the public. Tickets purchased before Aug. 8 are \$35 for each day and \$15 for the banquet, or \$60 for both days. For more information, call (800) 763-8280 or visit www.precept.org.

4. **Cumberland Church, Cumberland**, is hosting Doyle Smith in concert May 22, 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (662) 263-5391.

5. **Clarke Association** held a Crusade for Christ, led by evangelist Ronnie Owens and music director Daniel Carmack Apr. 3-6, during which 68 professions of faith were reported. Fifteen

preachers from the association went to Steel Valley Association in Ohio to preach in revival services Apr. 17-20, with 15 people professing faith in Christ.

6. Delio DelRio was ordained to the gospel ministry Apr. 17 at **Mt. Zion Church, Osyka**. Shown, from left, are Bob Ownbey; DelRio; and Charles Davis, Pike County AMD.



6. Ordination of DelRio, Mt. Zion Church, Osyka

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Four **William Carey College (WCC)** guitar students received awards at the Southeastern Guitar Congress and Competition at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala. Winners were Paulina Puljek, Armin Abdihodzic, Alma Sehic, and Brit Bartels. These students are all members of the Guitar Ensemble at Carey and performed in concert May 3 in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. Shown are Cole Beilmann, Sehic, Bartels, Franklin Adams, Abdihodzic, Dana Chaney, Jay Murphy, and Puljek at a recent concert.



1. WCC Guitar Ensemble

2. The annual Honors Day ceremony for the WCC Hattiesburg campus was held recently. Shown are **William Carey College** Jenkins Chastain Citizenship Award winners Will Rivero of Hattiesburg; Ruth Vickers of Oxford, Ala.; Katrina Cox of Laurel; Anna Morris of Ocala, Fla.; and Logan Abbott of Townsend, Tenn. The highest honor given by the college, it recognizes students who have made the most significant contribution to student and campus life in exemplifying those qualities of citizenship upheld by the college.



3. MC Retirees

3. **Mississippi College (MC)** recognized retiring faculty and staff Apr. 21 in honor of their retirement and years of service at MC. Retiring from the University are: Vicki Derrick, an employee since 1986; Ann McFarland, an

employee since 1987; Beverly A. Taylor, an employee since 1977; Minnie V. Porch, an employee since 1986; and Billy Lytal, faculty member since 1965. Shown are McFarland, Derrick, Lytal, Taylor, and Porch.

4. **Blue Mountain College's (BMC) BSU** held its annual commissioning service



2. WCC Honors Day



4. BMC Summer Missionaries

for summer missionaries and workers at Lowery Memorial Church. Mark Worsham, pastor of Bogue Chitto Church, presented the challenge to the 22 BMC students who will be serving at Mississippi's Camp Garaywa and Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, and throughout the United States, Japan, Philippines, and Canada.

OBITUARIES

William L. Clark, retired military chaplain (Brigadier General, U.S. Army) and former executive director of the Armed Services Chaplain Board in Washington, D.C., died March 19 at his home in Petal. Born in Scott County in 1911, he was a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and a student at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth when he was called to service in World War II. After the war, he completed his seminary studies at New Orleans Seminary. Clark held honorary doctorates from Mississippi College and Atlanta Law School.

While studying at New Orleans Seminary, Clark pastored Crosby Church, Crosby, and Fair River Church, Brookhaven. After seminary, he was pastor of First Church, Ellisville and Old Testament instructor at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville until he was recalled to military duty during the Korean War.

Clark remained in the military and served in numerous chaplaincy roles until his retirement in 1970. After retirement, Clark served as director of the division of chaplaincy at the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Clark was preceded in death by his wife Margaret Rogers Clark. He is survived by a son, two daughters, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Charles Holifield, pastor emeritus of Liberty Church, Liberty, died Mar. 28 at age 85 in Hoover, Ala. He was called to the pastorate of Liberty Church in 1974, arriving from Morgantown Church in Natchez. After leaving Liberty Church in 1985, he pastored other churches in Mississippi Association. Holifield was declared pastor emeritus of Liberty Church in 1985. He is survived by his wife Janice and a daughter.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27 • Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242 • E-mail: bcv1@misnet.com
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 1-15, 2005

MEMORIALS

Mr. Scotty Norman
Mr. Owen D. Jones
Mrs. Genece Hunt Nowell
Mr. & Mrs. J. Douglas Self Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Jones
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee
*Mr. & Mrs. Ovie Nunnery
Mrs. Mary N. Welch
Polly O'Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Coleman
Katy O'Neil
FBC Bude
Verbie Palmer
Ms. Clara H. Athey
Dr. Cliff Perkins
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee
Eddie James Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Kam Quinn & Family
Mr. James Pittman
Mr. Harold G. Marx Sr.
Maggie Polk
Ms. Hilda N. Bourne
Verdia M. Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon P. Theriot
Robert Alford Pritchett
Billy & Catherine Wilson
A. J. Proctor
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Fuqua
Mrs. Kitty Ray
Valley Park Baptist Church
Olivia Rhodes
Rev. & Mrs. Gibbie McMillan
Bill & Geneva Richardson
Mrs. Billie Lynn Arthur
Mr. Charles Richardson
Springfield Baptist Church
Mr. E. L. Robbins, Jr.
Mr. Cletus E. McCurley
Grace Roby
Sue Hatch
Norman & Ruby Fountain
Joe Majure
The Seekers SSC, Forest BC
Dirk & Edna Gibson
Wilma Walsh
Ms. Gertrude Buckley Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
Mrs. Bal Mobley
James Garner Roberts, Sr.
Ms. Donna M. Garner
Susan & Jerry Roberts
Donna Roberts
Gene & Debbie Roberts
Kenneth Roberts
Norman V. Robinson
Dorcas SSC, Bowmar BC-
Vicksburg
*Mr. Johnnie Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene N. Bigham
David Rucker
Mrs. Maurice B. Beatty
Charles Runnels
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy F. Taylor
Mrs. Evelyn H. Russell
Dr. & Mrs. A. J. Glaze
Traci Sasser
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton
Olga Sharp
Mr. & Mrs. J. Sam Lackey
John Shirley
Mike & Cleo Williams

Jack Shults
Paul, Elizabeth & Paul Jr. Love
*Virginia Silis
Everett & Juanita Stafford
Chris Smith
Kurt & Kim Jordan
Julia Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Denny Landreth
Mr. Walter P. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Tom W. Hardage
Mrs. Verbie Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver N. King
Walter Lee Smith
Mr. & Mrs. T. Roscoe Heaton Jr.
Mrs. Betty Ann Hand Stewart
Dr. & Mrs. Tommy King
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Wilson
Mrs. Louise Allgood
Mrs. Linda Stringer
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Dr. James L. Sullivan
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee
Mr. William J. Thigpen
Valley Park Baptist Church
Jack Thomas
Misses Dorothy & Joan Harrelson
Mrs. Louise Thomas
Dr. & Mrs. John E. Green
*Tohy Tisdale
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Crocker
Wayne Tombes
Galilee Baptist Church
Mr. Robert Touchstone
Mr. & Mrs. Neal Clinkscales
Mrs. Frances Turner
Jerusalem BC-Kosciusko
Lear Tynes
Dungan Engineering P A
Mrs. Judy Vance
Mr. & Mrs. Henry F. Peebles Jr.
Catherine Walker
Harry Neal & Weezi Corder
& Family
John B. Walker
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Potter
Gail, Jimmy, Maury, John
Thomas Bruton
Charlie Wall, III
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Petty
Stuart Allen Westbrook
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence R. Brown
Myles Whitehead
Mr. Robert R. Waymire
Mr. Carlton Wigley
Mr. & Mrs. Albert E. Garner
Clemmie Wiley
Kurt & Kim Jordan
Mrs. Viola M. Wiley
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Kitts
Woody Williams
Dorcas SSC, Bowmar BC-
Vicksburg
Gene Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace W. Johnson
Andy Woods
Tim & Leigh Henry
Billy & Carolyn Watson
Jason & Christy Wright
Mrs. Roger Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Michiel C. Gaddis

APRIL 16-30, 2005

HONORS

Sherry Walls Butler
Glenda Walls Fry

Carolyn Catledge
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey L. Hays
Bill & Charlotte Causey
The Family of Lois &
William Adams
Lesah Fry Doerkson
Glenda Walls Fry
Margaret Walls Ephlin
Glenda Walls Fry
Lisa Fortenberry
Joe Lovelady's SSC, N Oxford BC
Glinda Green
Glenda Walls Fry
Peggy Harris
Ms. Susan Ward
Adrienne Lynne Fry Holcomb
Glenda Walls Fry
Theresa Lassiter
Glenda Walls Fry
Dr. Joe Lovelady
Dr. Joe Lovelady's SSC,
N Oxford BC
Mrs. Beth Moore
Mrs. Vangie Fields
Barbara Walls Pace
Glenda Walls Fry
Mrs. Mildred G. Redding
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby R. Redding
Shirley Stephenson
Glenda Walls Fry

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Vera Audrey Ainsworth
The Robert Sullivan Family
Benny Albritton
Mr. & Mrs. Wasson Henry
Irene Arnold
Frank & Sunny Ainsworth
"Buddy" Atkinson
Mr. & Mrs. M. A. Brackeen
Wylie Bamburg
Leaf River Baptist Church
Dr. John E. Barnes, Jr.
Ms. Martha E. Shoemaker
Katherine Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Hobby
Wesley L. Bass
Pine Burr Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Callender Jr.
Mr. James Beard
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Sanders
Martha Virginia Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Norton
Marlin Blanton
Mr. & Mrs. Ferrell Carnes
James Boatman
Mrs. Elsie R. Hawkins
Ms. Kelli L. Milligan
Mrs. Ethel Boyd
The Robert Sullivan Family
Mrs. Rita Boyette
Mr. & Mrs. Lee E. Gillespie
Mrs. Mary Boykin
The Robert Sullivan Family
Mrs. Robert Sones Brock, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Balfour Lipscomb
Mrs. Linelle W. Brock
Dr. & Mrs. B. Thomas Jeffcoat
Mr. L. E. Griffin
James Broom, I
Dungan Engineering P A
Mrs. Gertrude Buckley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Wasson
Mr. Lucian Bullen, Sr.
Stanton Baptist Church
Mr. Harold Burris
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Power
Virgil Canoy
Mrs. Joyce W. Edmondson
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Mr. & Mrs. Riley Trimm
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Mr. & Mrs. T. Bland Norris
Mrs. Mildred G. Taylor
Mrs. Doreen Cochran
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Juanita & Bill Cocke
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Colbert Jr.
Neal Cockrell
Mrs. Mary D. Hartford
Mr. Billy Cockcroft
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Alton (Buster) Collins
Ms. Maida Stegall
Larry Wayne Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Elbert M. Downs
Kim Corban
Pat & Wayne Reeves
Orbie Craft
Minetta Veazey & Family
Myrtle Ruth Curtis
Mr. & Mrs. Fred White
Carolyn Didsworth
Sr Adult Ladies SSC,
Arlington Hgts
James Robert Douglas
Alice Case
Dawn Smith
Mr. George Smith
Mrs. Frances Evans
Mrs. Marsha Jane Kenneth
Elsie Harper Farish
Myrtis, Jimmy & Cathye Harper
Murrell Fleming
Ms. Margie W. Williams
Pete Frierson
Bill Spain
Charlie & Janet Spain
Doris Spain
Beth & Joe Young
Mr. Oris Gary
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Tommy Gilliland

Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Bennett
Montye Gillon
Mary Lynn, Cheryl Leigh &
Ralph J. Perkins
Augustine Gonsoulin
Mr. & Mrs. Raiford Strong
Homer Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ezell
H. C. Greene
I. L. Foster SSC, Prentiss BC
Dennis Haggard
Mrs. Norma H. Parks & Family
Tony Hanson
Martha & Hilton Ray
Mr. Thomas E. Harrell
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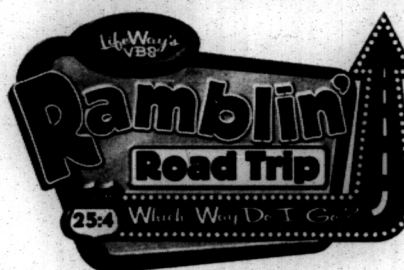
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Believe God

Genesis 17:15-19; 18:10-15; 21:1-5

By Rick Henson

Faith is difficult to define. The writer of Hebrews wrote that faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. Abraham believed God enough to leave his home and journey to Canaan, but eventually began to doubt that God would keep His word. When God mentioned Abraham's future son, he laughed. When Sarai, recently renamed Sarah, heard the Lord speak of her son, she also laughed. Fittingly, years later when their son was born, he was named Isaac, or "Laughter." Yes, Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. He also questioned whether God would do for him what He had said. Abraham was like the father of the demon-possessed boy in Mark 6 who said, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."

We often believe, but also have unbelief within us. Even John the Baptist, so confident in pronouncing, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world," later questioned if indeed Jesus was the Messiah in Matthew 11.

Abraham first attempted to make Eliezer, his servant-steward, his heir (Genesis 15:2.) Then Sarah devised a plan by which Abraham would have a child with her Egyptian handmaid, Hagar. Abraham did not object, and the result was Ishmael. Ishmael means, "God hears," though Abraham had listened to his wife and not the Lord. He was not to be the heir that God intended. In our focal passage God told Abraham that the promised son would be born to Abraham by Sarah.

God changed Sarai's name to Sarah. Sarai means, "my



Henson

princess," and Sarah means, "princess." She was changed from simply Abraham's joy to the mother of an ancestor of the Savior of all mankind. Abram's name was changed to Abraham. Abram means, "exalted father," and Abraham means, "father of multitudes."

Their parents named them each with high expectations and hoped that each would be special, but God chose them to be a special blessing to all people. Their names were changed to reflect the change from personal to public, from man's viewpoint to God's grand plans, and from no specific future to God's promises. In the eastern world names were highly significant and these changes, though subtle, had great meaning to Abraham and Sarah. God promised them an heir. It would not be a servant, or only Abraham's, but would be born to Abraham and Sarah. The Scripture intentionally states that Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

God truly tested their faith. He promised a son when Abraham was seventy-five, and gave him one when he was one hundred years old. Imagine waiting for twenty-five years while your body passes the ability to conceive. God wanted Abraham to trust Him, and not the process of procreation. If the child could be explained by any human means, then Abraham would not be trusting in God, but in man. By waiting until Sarah was well past the age of childbearing, God received the glory and Abraham clearly understood that God had kept His word.

As God had made a covenant with Abraham, he also made one with Isaac. One of our focal passages, Genesis 17:19, says that God would maintain a relationship with Isaac and his offspring. God's purposes were long reaching and far past Abraham's life. We may not always understand or see the purposes of God, but He always has a plan. William Tyndale may not have understood why after he had worked tirelessly for decades to translate the Bible into English, he would be captured and hung. As he

faced the gallows Tyndale prayed publicly that God would change the heart and mind of the king, Henry VIII. Within a few years, King Henry VIII issued a command that the Bible be printed "with all haste" in English. Tyndale never saw the results of his work, but God used him far beyond his short life.

God commanded Abraham to circumcise every male in his household, including himself. God demanded that Abraham be different from those who did not know God. He selected a physical difference to demonstrate the different heart and spirit. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, and within a year he fathered Isaac. God demands that all of His servants be different from those who do not know Him. Today God demands distinctiveness. When Christians are indistinguishable from lost people, they are unusable by God. God will not use what He does not have. He requires faith and distinctiveness.

Rick Henson is pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Persevere in Serving the Lord

Jeremiah 37: 13b-17; 38: 3-6, 17-18

By Billie Buckley

Jeremiah has been giving us good directions on how to stand firm when all around us is shifting sand. Through our remaining lessons he continues to give good direction by example as he remains firm in his faith.

Today he would teach us to "Preserve in the Faith and in Serving the Lord."

Just what can be learned about this preserving faith from Jeremiah? At times it acted cautiously for God to confirm His word by either an inner voice or others of faith backing it up. Today this faith may say to us, "Be careful."

Other times folks surely said of Jeremiah, "The audacity of this man's faith. He's not doing what we are doing. Why does he always do the unreasonable, the ridiculous?"

The answer was simple. His faith was willing to look ridiculous because it was being obedient to a higher understanding. Today it may also say, "Be bold!"

Faith is also committed. His faith may have trembled at times, but it never tumbled down. It is still saying today, "Be committed, and be consistent to His Word."

Did the faith of Jeremiah ever doubt? Before man the answer is no. Before God the answer is yes.

As we look closer at doubting faith, we understand it is the proof of our faith. Doubt is an attack upon faith. So, you can't doubt unless you have faith, and Satan always attacks the way God works. Today this faith says, "Be aware." Do not let doubts overthrow you for



Buckley

they are proof you are keeping on in the faith.

This scripture shows us three times we are not to march away, drift away or stand in the distance as we, like Jeremiah, seek to serve our Lord.

Preserve when falsely accused. (37:13b-17) Let's watch Jeremiah walking through the

Benjamin Gate minding his own business. There he was surrounded by deceitful men crying out, "You are defecting to Babylon. (You do know Babylon is located in modern day Iraq, don't you?) You're going to the dungeon."

Even today, deceitful people are hard to deal with. Not only do they lie but they know how to cover it up. When removed from the dungeon he was asked, "Now do you have a message from the Lord?"

Jeremiah replied, "Yes, I do. You will be defeated by the king of Babylon."

Where did he find this courageous response? Surely it came from his hope in God. He

fixed his eyes on God and not the problem.

Listen to Jeremiah. "Look, when I have said it all, I will say it all again. Because of you disobedience you are going to Babylon."

Preserve when others waver. (38: 3-6) The circumstances hadn't changed in these verses, but Jeremiah was still in a dark dungeon. We have been there too.

Would you allow me to share a personal story with you? This chapter is special as it relates to the death of my mother from a stroke. In a quiet space at the hospital I prayed this prayer for her based on Jeremiah 38: 6-13. Even today most of my praying is through scripture.

"Father, I just read in this Gideon Bible where Jeremiah was put in a dark dungeon and some men came with cords and removed him. I ask you to remove my Mother with cords of love from the darkness she is in. Take her home to be with you, or leave her here for us to care for. It's okay what you decide, Lord. You choose."

This was not the end of her story. Her unwavering faith led to a new beginning. Yes, she was removed from that dungeon and taken home to be with her Lord.

Preserve through obedience. (38:17-18) It took courage for Jeremiah to be obedient to the harsh warnings of God's Word. In Exodus 24:7 we read, "All that the Lord hath said we will do and be obedient."

The obedience of Jeremiah took action. Only after listening to God did he accelerate the message, continue the discussion, maintain his stance, persist in giving good directions, and proceed to lead by example.

The people of Judah had lost their way and needed to listen to Jeremiah, the giver of good directions, as he gave a clear understandable instruction from God.

May we hear the God of Jeremiah say to us today, "This is the way. Walk ye in it."

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

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Clue: J = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah One:Two.

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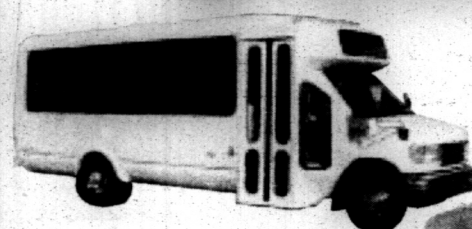
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